

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-382. (Cancelled)

383. (New) A method for routing data objects through a communication network that includes a virus detection system, the method comprising:

classifying an incoming data object to the communication network according to a pre-determined criterion related to a type of said incoming data object;

if said classifying indicates that said incoming data object is distrusted: routing said incoming data object to the virus detection system; and

otherwise, routing said incoming data object directly to a destination thereof,

said criterion being prior information that a data object of said type includes executable code.

384. (New) The method of claim 383, wherein said incoming data object is selected from the group consisting of a file, a Web page, an e-mail message and a communication packet.

385. (New) The method of claim 383, wherein the communication network connects between a wide area network and a local area network.

386. (New) The method of claim 383, wherein the communication network connects between a wide area network and a computer system.

387. (New) The method of claim 383, wherein the communication network connects between a local area network and a computer system.

388. (New) A router apparatus comprising:

programmable means for detecting viruses within data objects that pass through the apparatus;

programmable means for classifying a data object according to a pre-determined criterion related to a type of said data object; and

programmable means, separate from said programmable means for detecting viruses, for routing said data object:

to said programmable means for detecting viruses if said classifying indicates that said data object is distrusted,

otherwise, directly to a destination thereof,

said criterion being prior information that a data object of said type includes executable code.

389. (New) The router apparatus of claim 388, wherein said programmable means comprise software elements.

390. (New) The router apparatus of claim 388, wherein said programmable means comprise hardware elements.

391. (New) A method for routing data objects through a communication network that includes a virus detection system, the method comprising the steps of:

classifying an incoming data object selected from the group consisting of Web pages, e-mail messages and communication packets to the communication network according to a pre-determined criterion related to a type of said incoming data object;

if said classifying indicates that said incoming data object is distrusted: routing said incoming data object to the virus detection system; and

otherwise, routing said incoming data object directly to a destination thereof;

said criterion being prior information that a data object of said type includes executable code.

392. (New) A router apparatus comprising:

programmable means for detecting viruses within data objects selected from the group consisting of Web pages, e-mail messages and communication packets that pass through the apparatus;

programmable means for classifying a data object according to a pre-determined criterion related to a type of said data object; and

programmable means, separate from said programmable means for detecting viruses, for routing said data object:

to said programmable means for detecting viruses if said classifying indicates that said data object is distrusted, and

otherwise, directly to a destination thereof,

said criterion being prior information that a data object of said type includes executable code.